

# **Liquor Control Board for Harford County, Maryland**

## **Growler Information for Licensees**

The Maryland General Assembly approved an expanded growler bill for alcohol beverage licensees during the 2015 session. In Harford County this bill still applies to all class A-1 and class D licensees and to class B licensees who currently have a beer and wine or a beer, wine, and liquor off-sale privilege. The Board will issue a yearly growler license, upon request, to any licensee who meets the above requirements. The changes to the law will take effect on July 1, 2015. The changes to the law for 2015 are:

- 1) Permitted licensees may now sell wine in growlers in addition to beer. See the definitions below.
- 2) The hours when beer and wine may be sold in growlers are now from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 a.m.

Cost: \$50 annually, permit to run from May 1 through April 30 of the following year

Hours: Beer may be dispensed in growlers from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 a.m.

## **Beer Growler requirements**

The requirements for the growlers are found in Article 2B, § 8-103, § 8-213.3 & § 21-107:

To be used as a refillable container for beer under the authority of a refillable container permit issued under this article, a container shall:

- (1) have a capacity of not less than 32 ounces and not more than 128 ounces;
- (2) be sealable;
- (3) be branded with an identifying mark of the seller of the container;
- (4) bear the federal health warning statement required for containers of alcoholic beverages under 27 C.F.R. §16.21;
- (5) display instructions for cleaning the container; and
- (6) bear a label stating that:
  - (i) cleaning the container is the responsibility of the consumer; and
  - (ii) the contents of the container are perishable and should be refrigerated immediately and consumed within 48 hours after purchase.

A retailer may refill a growler from any other retailer, even from outside the State, as long as the container meets the above requirements and displays the required warning label and cleaning information.

27 C.F.R., § 16.21: Mandatory label information

There shall be stated on the brand label or separate front label, or on a back or side label, separate and apart from all other information, the following statement:

**GOVERNMENT WARNING: (1) According to the Surgeon General, women should not drink alcoholic beverages during pregnancy because of the risk of birth defects. (2) Consumption of alcoholic beverages impairs your ability to drive a car or operate machinery, and may cause health problems.**

Wine Growler requirements

All of the above requirements apply to selling wine in growlers except for the size of the container. Wine may only be sold in refillable containers with a capacity of not less than 17 ounces and not more than 34 ounces.

**Definitions:**

Beer – includes beer, ale, porter, stout, hard cider, and alcoholic beverages that contain:

- 1) 6% or less alcohol by volume, derived primarily from the fermentation of grain, with not more than 49% of the beverage's overall alcohol content by volume obtained from flavors and other added non-beverage ingredients containing alcohol; or
- 2) More than 6% alcohol by volume, derived primarily from the fermentation of grain, with not more than 1.5% of the beverage's overall alcohol content by volume obtained from flavors and other added non-beverage ingredients containing alcohol.

Hard Cider – a beverage derived primarily from apples, apple concentrate and water, pears, or pear concentrate and water, containing no other fruit product, and containing at least one-half of 1% and less than 7% of alcohol by volume.

Wine – any fermented beverage, including light wines, and wines the alcoholic content of which has been fortified by the addition of alcohol, spirits or other ingredients.